

## **Claims**

### **What is claimed is:**

1. A method for tracking and processing passengers and their transported articles, comprising the steps of:

a) coding each of a plurality of RFID tags with a unique identifier, the identifier being

stored in a memory portion of each RFID tag;

b) coding a first RFID tag with information relating to a select passenger, the information being stored in the memory portion of the first RFID tag;

c) affixing the first RFID tag to a means for identifying the select passenger;

d) providing the identifying means to the select passenger;

e) electrically scanning the first RFID tag to retrieve passenger-specific information when the identifying means is transported to an airport by the select passenger;

f) generating a passenger record for the select passenger using the passenger-specific information;

g) authenticating the identity of the select passenger with respect to the identifying means;

h) associating a second RFID tag with the passenger record, the second RFID tag being affixed to a boarding pass for an airline flight;

i) storing passenger-specific flight data in at least one of the passenger record and the second RFID tag;

j) issuing the boarding pass to the select passenger;

k) associating a third RFID tag with the passenger record, the third RFID tag being affixed to a first baggage label;

- l) affixing the first baggage label to the passenger's baggage; and
  - m) wherein at least one of the passenger-identifying means, boarding pass, and first baggage label are used in cooperation with the passenger record and at least one electrical scanner to retrieve information relating to the passenger and/or baggage.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing at least a portion of the passenger-specific information and flight data in the second RFID tag.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing at least a portion of the passenger-specific information and flight data in the third RFID tag.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- a) inspecting the baggage for any contents that do not meet predetermined security regulations;
  - b) storing data relating to the inspection of the baggage; and
  - c) associating the baggage inspection data to the passenger record.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing at least one display, the display comprising a scanner and being adapted to electrically scan passengers proximate the display.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the display electrically scans at least one RFID tag carried by a select passenger, retrieves at least a portion of at least one of the passenger-specific

information, flight data and passenger record, and displays passenger-specific information for the select passenger.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the display electrically scans at least one RFID tag carried by a select passenger, retrieves at least a portion of at least one of the passenger-specific information, flight data and passenger record, and displays advertising directed to the select passenger.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one scanner electrically scans the third RFID tag to detect the baggage, and communicates current information to the passenger record relating to the location of the baggage.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second RFID tags are electrically scanned at a security checkpoint and the location of the select passenger is recorded in the passenger record.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second RFID tags are electrically scanned and compared to the associated passenger record to check for conflicts.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- a) associating the identifier of a fourth RFID tag with the passenger record, the fourth RFID tag being affixed to a second baggage label; and
- b) affixing the second baggage label to a carry-on bag carried by the passenger.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

- a) inspecting the carry-on bag for any contents that do not meet predetermined security regulations;
- b) storing data relating to the inspection of the carry-on bag; and
- c) associating the carry-on inspection data to the passenger record.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the second RFID tag is electrically scanned to permit or deny the select passenger access to a select aircraft.

14. A method for tracking personnel, comprising the steps of:

- a) coding an RFID tag with a unique identifier, the identifier being stored in a memory portion of the RFID tag;
- b) affixing the RFID tag to a means for identifying a select member of the personnel;
- c) coding the RFID tag with information relating to the select member, the information being stored in the memory portion of the RFID tag;
- d) generating an electronic record for the select member, using at least a portion of the member-specific information;
- e) providing the identification means to the select member;
- f) electrically scanning the RFID tag to retrieve the member-specific information when the select member is proximate a scanner; and
- g) wherein the current location of the select member is communicated to the electronic record and stored.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the select member is at least one of an employee, a vendor, a person wanted by security personnel, a passenger, and a child.

16. A method for tracking personnel and articles, comprising the steps of:

a) coding an RFID tag with a unique identifier, the identifier being stored in a memory portion of the RFID tag;

b) affixing the RFID tag to a means for identifying one of a select member of the personnel and a select article;

c) providing the identifying means to the select member or affixing the identifying means to the select article;

d) associating the identifier of the RFID tag with the select member or select article, and associating the identifier with a list of wanted personnel and articles;

e) electrically scanning the RFID tag when the select member or article is proximate a scanner to retrieve the identifier number of the RFIF tag;

f) comparing the identifier number of the scanned RFID tag with the list;

g) notifying security personnel of the location of the select member or article if the identifier of the scanned RFID tag appears on the list; and

h) wherein the select member or article is located.